

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR, YO, XH

SUBJECT: MINIC VISIT TO ATHENS

1. IN JANUARY 15 MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, GREEK PERMREP THEODOROPOULOS REPORTED ON YUGOSLAV FONMIN MINIC'S DECEMBER 16-18 VISIT TO ATHENS. THEODOROPOULOS PREFACED HIS REPORT ON DETAILS BY NOTING THAT MINIC VISIT AND GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS' RECENT TRIP TO SOFIA WERE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO GREECE BECAUSE THEY CONSTITUTED THE FIRST GOG CONTACTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS SINCE THE OUSTER OF THE MILITARY REGIME AND THE RECENT GREEK ELECTIONS. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ATTACHED A CERTAIN WEIGHT TO ESTABLISHING CLOSER CONTACTS AFTER A LOAPSE OF MANY YEARS.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEKS ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, YUGOSLAVS PLACED MUCH EMPHASIS ON DETENTE AND STRESSED THAT RELAXATION OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS SHOULD NOT BE A MONOPOLY OF THE SUPERPOWERS NOR LEAD TO A U.S.-SOVIET CONDOMINIMUM. THE
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DETENTE ROLE OF THE MINOR POWERS MUST BE INCREASED DESPITE THE INCREASING MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE SUPERPOWERS. INDEED, NON-ALIGNED GOVERNMENTS MUST BE DEFINITION ACTIVELY SUPPORT DETENTE EFFORTS.

3. DESPITE CRITICISM OF SUPERPOWERS' ROLE, MINIC WAS OUTSPOKEN IN HIS PRAISE OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENTS ON SALT. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT MEANINGFUL DISARMAMENT SHOULD FOLLOW AS A NEXT STEP.

4. WHILE EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RISK OF FURTHER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, MINIC SAID INDIA'S RECENTLY-TESTED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WOULD ONLY BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

5. ON MBFR, MINIC SUGGESTED TO THE GREEKS THAT IT WAS ABSURD TO THINK ONLY ABOUT REDUCING NUMBERS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL SINCE TECHNICAL ADVANCES GAVE FEWER PEOPLE A GREATER COMBAT CAPABILITY; EVEN THEN, NO REDUCTION IN NUMBERS HAD YET OCCURRED.

6. MINIC HOPED FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR CSCE PARTICULARLY IN COVERAGE OF MINORITY RIGHTS AND THE TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO.

7. REGARDING YUGOSLAVIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, MINIC SAID RELATIONS WITH ITALY HAD IMPROVED, AND COMMENTED ON THE "GOOD WILL" OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA WERE TENSE, AND BELGRADE HOPED THAT VIENNA WOULD APPLY EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND CEASE ANTI-YUGOSLAV PROPAGANDA. MINIC DESCRIBED YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY AS GOOD AND WITH ROMANIA AS EXCELLENT. RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA "COULD BE GOOD, BUT THEY WERE NOT". YUGOSLAVIA HOPED THAT RECENT ALBANIAN STATEMENTS ON THE BALKANS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY STUDIED BY BALKAN GOVERNMENTS.

8. ON BALKAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL, MINIC DESCRIBED CONDITIONS AS NOT YET RIPE FOR SIDER BALKAN COOPERATION WHICH SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF A SLOW AND DETAILED APPROACH.

9. GREEKS ALSO DISCUSSED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MINIC WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. BRUCE

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